

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LIVESTOCK STATISTICS

31st MARCH, 1957.

Bulletin No. 8 of 1957.

During the twelve months ended 31st March, 1957, there were large increases in the numbers of most livestock in South Australia and many records were broken. Trends can be seen from the following table which compares the last three years with the years ending 31.3.44 and 31.3.46, being years immediately before and at the end of the 2 year drought period.

Numbers - as at 31st March

Classification	1944	1946	1955	1956	1957
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
SHEEP					
Under 1 year	2,328.0	925.8	2,592.9	2,906.3	3,457.2
1 year and over	8,031.7	5,860.7	10,224.2	10,678.6	11,526.6

Romney Marsh	32.4	(34.3)	Border Leicester	19.4	(19.0)
Dorset Horn	35.6	(35.4)	South Down	5.5	(4.5)
Suffolk	14.7	(14.0)	Merino Comeback	292.8	(280.5)
Other & unspecified			Crossbred	1,119.3	(912.3)
pure breeds	9.1	(7.1)			

The above figures show a general increase in both the wool and fat lamb types.

LAMBING The number of ewes mated in 1956 was 6,142,419 an increase of 8.63% over the previous record of 5,654,541 in 1955 while the number of lambs marked, 4,909,922, was also a record, exceeding the 1955 figure of 4,439,656 by 10.60%.

The lambing percentage of 79.93% was slightly higher than the previous record of 78.69% established in 1917.

Details of lambing during the past three years compared with lambing during 1943 and 1945 are as follows:

Particulars	Unit	1943	1945	1954	1955	1956
Ewes Mated	'000	4,645.4	3,036.0	5,242.2	5,654.5	6,142.4
Lambs Marked	'000	3,322.8	1,469.8	4,014.8	4,439.7	4,909.9
Lambing Percentage	%	71.53	48.41	76.59	78.51	79.93

In 1957, it was intended to mate 5,106,196 ewes to Merino, Corriedale or polwarth rams and 1,766,956 to rams of other breeds.

WOOL CLIP Higher wool prices and a record wool production, estimated at 191,000,000 lbs. caused the total value of wool produced to rise by 46% over the previous year's value to approximately £58,300,000 - the second highest on record.

The last three seasons are compared with 1950-51 (the season of boom prices) in the following table:

Particulars	Unit	1950-51	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
Sheep, lambs shorn	'000	10,736	13,644	14,484	15,717
Total Clip, Crutchings, etc.	'000 lb.	114,309	139,675	158,182	175,274
Total Wool Production (a)	'000 lb.	125,384	155,761	173,697	191,000
Value of Production	£000	66,247	41,602	39,911	58,300
Average price (greasy), Adelaide	d.	129.16	65.68	56.38	74.43

(a) Includes fellmongered wool, wool exported on skins and dead wool.

CATTLE Total cattle, numbered 621,577 being 55,522 or 9.81% in excess of the previous record established in 1956. This large increase is mainly in beef cattle (356,093 in 1957 compared with 301,752 in 1956, a rise of 18.01%).

The totals of all calves and of beef calves were also records but dairy calves were 2,057 below the 1947 peak of 47,364.

Details as at 31st March are given below:

Classification	1944	1946	1955	1956	1957
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
DAIRY CATTLE					
Cows - In Milk	111.0	112.0	109.4	102.5	104.0
Dry	50.7	38.1	60.4	63.3	62.6
Springing Heifers	25.9	25.6	29.5	29.2	27.9
Total	187.6	175.7	199.3	195.0	194.5
Other Heifers	18.1	16.9	17.6	18.1	16.9
Bulls	7.4	7.1	8.8	8.8	8.8
Calves	40.0	31.6	43.2	42.4	45.3
Total	253.1	231.3	268.9	264.3	265.5
BEEF CATTLE					
Cows and Heifers	71.9	70.5	118.9	144.4	171.9
Bulls	1.9	2.1	5.2	5.8	6.7
Calves	40.8	27.6	61.7	73.1	100.1
Other	47.3	42.6	69.1	78.5	77.4
Total	161.9	142.8	254.9	301.8	356.1
TOTAL CATTLE	415.0	374.1	523.8	566.1	621.6

DAIRY
PRODUCTION

The following table, with provisional figures for 1956-57, comparing production figures for the last three years with those of 1943-44 and 1945-46, indicates that whilst milk and cheese production have increased considerably between 1943 and 1956, butter production has remained fairly constant and bacon and ham fallen. As will be seen from a comparison with the first table of this bulletin, the decline in bacon production is considerably greater than the reduction in pig numbers.

Production	Unit	1943-44	1945-46	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
Butter	'000 lb.	19,803.7	18,541.2	19,497.6	19,541.3	19,260.0
Cheese	'000 lb.	19,726.0	22,478.9	29,346.9	28,297.4	26,800.0
Bacon and Ham	'000 lb.	10,315.6	11,734.8	7,254.4	7,676.5	7,300.0
Grand Total Milk Production	'000 gall.	78,150.0	79,370.0	90,700.0	90,350.0	89,000.0

PIGS

The number of pigs varies from year to year but has been lower in recent years than 10-20 years ago, the maximum being 190,068 in 1940.

Numbers during the last four years are compared with 1944 and 1946 in the following table.

Numbers - as at 31st March

Classification	Unit	1944	1946	1955	1956	1957
Boars	'000	3.7	2.8	2.2	1.9	2.4
Breeding Sows	'000	21.9	15.6	12.9	10.8	14.8
All Other	'000	160.4	101.6	69.4	60.2	75.0
Total	'000	186.0	120.0	84.5	72.9	92.2

HORSES

The number of horses this year (41,049) is the lowest since 1859, and is only 20% of the 1936 total of 200,870, since when the total has declined continuously. The maximum was 283,641 in 1913.

The following table giving totals for 1936 compared with numbers of horses for the years ending 31st March 1944, 1946 and the last two years, shows the trend in recent years and in particular the sharp decrease from 1944 to 1946 - during the drought period.

Classification	Unit	1936	1944	1946	1956	1957
Foals	'000	17.5	5.7	2.2	2.2	2.1
Draught Horses	'000	183.4	105.4	78.0	10.8	8.8
Other Horses	'000)	43.0	35.8	31.5	30.1
Total	'000	200.9	154.1	116.0	44.5	41.0

SLAUGHTERINGS The numbers of livestock slaughtered during the years ended 30th June 1955 to 1957 and the years ended December 1943 and 1945 are compared below.

Classification	Unit	1943	1945	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
Sheep	'000	1,105.5	1,330.3	1,351.5	1,254.2	1,253.0
Lambs	'000	1,374.2	686.7	1,447.4	1,103.4	1,043.0
Cattle & Calves	'000	189.0	147.5	232.9	227.4	248.0
Pigs	'000	192.3	206.3	136.3	132.2	122.0

MORTALITY LOSS The reported losses of livestock from drought and all other causes during the years ended 31st March 1954 to 1957 are compared with the year ending 31st March 1946 in the following table:-

Classification	Unit	Year ending 31st March				
		1946	1954	1955	1956	1957
Sheep	'000	1,167.0	447.8	436.4	442.1	475.0
Lambs	'000	133.2	107.8	103.4	114.6	129.2
Cattle	'000	23.6	14.8	17.0	18.0	19.7
Horses	'000	14.2	2.1	3.1	2.2	1.9
Pigs	'000	7.8	3.2	6.3	5.5	6.5

LIVESTOCK IN DIVISIONS The numbers of livestock in divisions at the 31st March, the increases and the percentage increases for the State are shown for the years 1956 and 1957 in the table below.

Details for Year ending 31st March

Division	SHEEP		CATTLE		HORSES		PIGS	
	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Central	3,292.1	3,046.0	170.2	165.1	11.0	12.5	39.1	34.3
Lower North	2,183.6	1,998.8	37.2	34.2	4.1	4.7	19.5	14.8
Upper North	1,237.9	1,134.2	22.9	17.9	3.0	3.1	3.8	2.6
South Eastern	3,336.9	2,937.6	171.3	148.8	5.2	5.5	6.1	5.0
Western	2,346.0	2,166.6	16.1	15.4	4.1	4.4	13.5	8.3
Murray Mallee	1,389.6	1,168.5	29.5	27.6	2.6	3.0	10.2	7.9
Total Counties	13,786.1	12,451.7	447.2	409.0	30.0	33.3	92.2	72.9
Outside Counties	1,197.7	1,133.2	174.4	157.1	11.1	11.2	-	-
Total State	14,983.8	13,584.9	621.6	566.1	41.1	44.5	92.2	72.9
Increase over previous year	1,398.9	767.7	55.5	42.2	-3.4	-4.5	19.3	-11.6
Percentage Increase	10.30%	5.99%	9.81%	8.06%	-7.69%	-9.14%	26.41%	-13.71%

GOYDER'S
LINE

The numbers of sheep and cattle in 1952 outside Goyder's line were 3,103,000 and 149,000 respectively compared with 3,027,000 and 156,000 respectively in 1927, (i.e. prior to the effects of the serious 1927-29 drought). During the intervening period the numbers have exceeded the 1927 totals on only 5 occasions for sheep and none for cattle. On the other hand, the number of sheep and cattle within Goyder's Line has with the exception of drought years been steadily increasing from 4,515,000 and 161,000 respectively in 1927 to 8,367,000 and 288,000 respectively in 1952. Since 1952 numbers both inside and outside Goyder's Line have been increasing at a rapid rate. For sheep, however, the percentage increase has been much greater within Goyder's Line.

These increases in numbers within Goyder's Line correspond with the period of reduced crop acreages, increased top dressed areas and, latterly, with the myxomatosis campaign and an extended period of assured rainfall.

Although the number of horses in S.A. has been falling steadily since 1936 (from 201,000 to 41,000 in 1957), the decline has been more rapid within Goyder's Line (from 72% horses within this line in 1936 to 59% at present). The period of this more rapid decline corresponds to that of the growth in the number of tractors on farms from 4,600 in 1936 to 24,300 in 1956.

Details of livestock for the years 1927, 1952 and 1957 are as follows:-

Livestock	Within Goyder's Line			Beyond Goyder's Line			Percentage Beyond		
	1927	1952	1957	1927	1952	1957	1927	1952	1957
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
Sheep	4,515.3	8,367.4	11,187.9	3,027.1	3,102.7	3,796.0	40.1	27.0	25.3
Cattle	160.5	288.3	410.4	155.8	149.2	211.1	49.3	34.1	34.0
Horses	159.0	44.5	24.2	65.0	18.7	16.9	29.0	29.6	41.1

AREAS UNDER
DEVELOPMENT

The following table shows increases in the number of sheep and cattle for the last two 7-yearly periods in districts where there has been rapid development.

Numbers as at 31st March

District	Sheep			Cattle		
	1943	1950	1957	1943	1950	1957
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Coonalpyn Downs	232.7	235.5	683.0	4.7	5.6	22.5
Kangaroo Island	92.4	110.6	277.0	1.1	1.6	4.8
County Grey	686.4	694.2	1,158.0	59.0	71.7	95.4
County Flinders	339.8	299.7	491.0	3.6	2.6	4.7

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